



INDIANA - SLOVAKIA

1994-2013



President: Ivan Gašparovič
Prime Min.: Robert Fico
MoD: Martin Glváč
Amb. to US: Peter Kmec
US Amb: Theodore Sedgwick
TAG: MG Martin Umbarger

NATO member: Yes (2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 234 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 6

Population: 5.5M (2012 est.)
Area: twice the size of New Hampshire
Military Expend.: 1.1% GDP (2010 est.)



Photo by U.S. Air Force

Overview

Since its inception in 1994, the Indiana and Slovakia partnership has grown steadily in its offerings, training events, and personnel. One of the oldest State Partnerships, the Indiana-Slovakia Partnership began with the initial goal of Slovakia becoming a full member of NATO. Since that goal was realized, the Soldiers from Indiana and Slovakia have participated in over 200 joint events and have deployed side by side in combat. The future of the Partnership looks bright and both sides enjoy a special bond that has endured for almost 20 years.

Partnership History

Overview

- The State Partnership was established 14 JUL 1993
- NATO member since 2005.
- EU member since 01 MAY 2004
- UN member since 31 JUL 1992
- Full partner in NATO
- Executed over 200 bi-lateral events since partnership began
- Participated in KFOR 2004-2010
- Participating in Cyprus UN Mission
- Slovakia's military is made up of land, air, air defense and special forces
- Advanced Economy based on increasing privatization of business characterized with high economic growth.

When Czechoslovakia divided into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, the Department of Defense and the U.S. State Department saw a great opportunity to become allies with these two new nations. The decision to partner Slovakia with Indiana came in large because in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many Slovak immigrants came to work in the factories in northern Indiana and were essential in making Indiana what it is today.[5] The two militaries have exchanged troops, techniques and training procedures in over 200 bi-lateral events since partnership began. Events have included, among other things:

- NCO Development
- Flight Training
- Fire Support Planning
- Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield
- Military Decision Making Process

In 2004, Slovakia realized the goal it had set from the start of the partnership - full NATO membership. Slovakia also gained membership into the European Union that same year.

As a further testament to the accomplishments of the Indiana-Slovakia partnership, Indiana Guardsmen and Slovak troops deployed side-by-side to Afghanistan in 2011. For 10 months, they served under the command of an SAF officer as an Operation Mentor and Liaison Team mentoring Afghan logistics troops.

"The advancement of the Slovak military, from a Soviet Era Cold War style force to an ally who is currently fighting alongside our fellow Indiana Guardsmen in Afghanistan is truly remarkable. We were welcomed not only as allies, but as friends and brothers-in-arms amid



Photo by Capt. Elizabeth Culberson



"Our special relationship with the Slovak military through the State Partnership Program has made us a stronger member of a great team. This program makes the Indiana National Guard a more ready and relevant force." - MG R. Martin Umbarger, Adjutant General, Indiana National Guard

the backdrop of a beautiful countryside filled with genuinely hospitable people." – COL Ron Westfall, Director of Plans, Operations, and Readiness, Indiana National Guard[

Partnership Focus

The focus for 2013 is:

- Disaster Response Crisis Management
- Cyber Security
- CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive)
- Rotary Wing Interoperability
- MAT VI and MAT VII Training Development[9]

MG Umbarger, the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard, has taken on five significant initiatives for consideration in the coming years:

- Continued emphasis on Joint SAF/INNG Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams in Afghanistan
- A study of the viability and parameters of a reserve force in Slovakia
- Initiation of a query into a second partnership, possibly in Africa
- Feasibility study into a joint partnership with Slovakia and a third nation
- Slovakia and INNG mobilizing as a joint Agribusiness Development Team

